A Maasai vision for the future of land, pastoralism and co-existence with wildlife

This is a summary of a document (https://t.ly/luw2u) developed in July 2024 by the Maasai elders, women and youth from 26 villages of five districts in Northern Tanzania (Ngorongoro, Longido, Monduli, Simanjiro and Kiteto). The document reflects the views, hopes and expectations of over 520 community members representing a diversity of contexts, challenges and opinions. The document is the outcome of a participatory process organised by the Maasai International Solidarity Alliance (MISA) and endorsed by all its members. Its objective is to develop and promote an alternative to the colonial, fortress, violent and capitalistic conservation model that is imposed on our Maasai community, leading to the alienation of our land. The purpose of the document is to support dialogue, alliance building with other pastoralist and agropastoralist communities and international advocacy.

Land

- No displacement
- Protect customary rights
- Promote co-existence and
- No more protected areas in our land
- Land restitution

Coexistence with wildlife

- · No separation of humans and nature
- · Wildlife management in community hands
- No militarisation
- Mutual relationship of Maasai with nature recognized

Culture

- No hate speech
- No discrimination
- No appropriation of our culture
- Free prior informed consent

Gender and women's rights

- Equal and effective participation
- · Economic equality
- No gender based violence
- Equal rights to ownership and inheritance

Education

- Access to quality education for all including the poor
- · Local and adequate facilities and transport
- Mobile schools
- Promote and use Maa language

Pastoralism

- Protect our land management systems
- No land encroachment
- Pro-pastoralism policies and support services
- Access to fair markets

Food and Health

- No grazing restrictions
- Decent employment
- Livelihood diversification
- Access to local and affordable health facilities

Fair tourism

- Community managed
- No restrictions or negative impacts on pastoralism
- · Free prior and informed consent
- Equitable and compulsory sharing of benefits

No hunting

- Trophy hunting is cruel and against our culture
- It is not compatible with pastoralism and conservation
- It should be abolished

No carbon without FPIC

- No interference with pastoralism
- · No restrictions on using land and natural resources
- Free prior and informed consent

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